

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 2, as follows:

It is accordingly an object of the present invention to overcome, or at least alleviate, one or more of the difficulties and deficiencies related to the prior art. Applicants have recently shown that PANi base in the form of freestanding film, coating or powder can be converted to the doped state upon exposure to the aqueous viologen solution under ambient conditions. The reactions involve the transfer of electrons from PANi to the viologen dications resulting in the formation of viologen cation radicals and the transfer of some of the halide ions initially associated with the viologen to the PANi. This form of oxidative doping of PANi offers the advantage of the use of near-neutral aqueous medium rather than a strongly acidic medium or organic solvent as in the prior art described above. Accordingly, in a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for producing an electrically conductive polymeric material. The method can be performed by irradiating a pre-doped composition of the polymeric material and a viologen or viologen salt with electromagnetic radiation thus producing an electrically conductive polymeric material. The electromagnetic radiation preferably includes one or more of UV or near UV wavelengths. Another aspect of the invention is an electrically conductive polymeric article including a

polymeric material exhibiting electrical conductivity that is produced by the method.